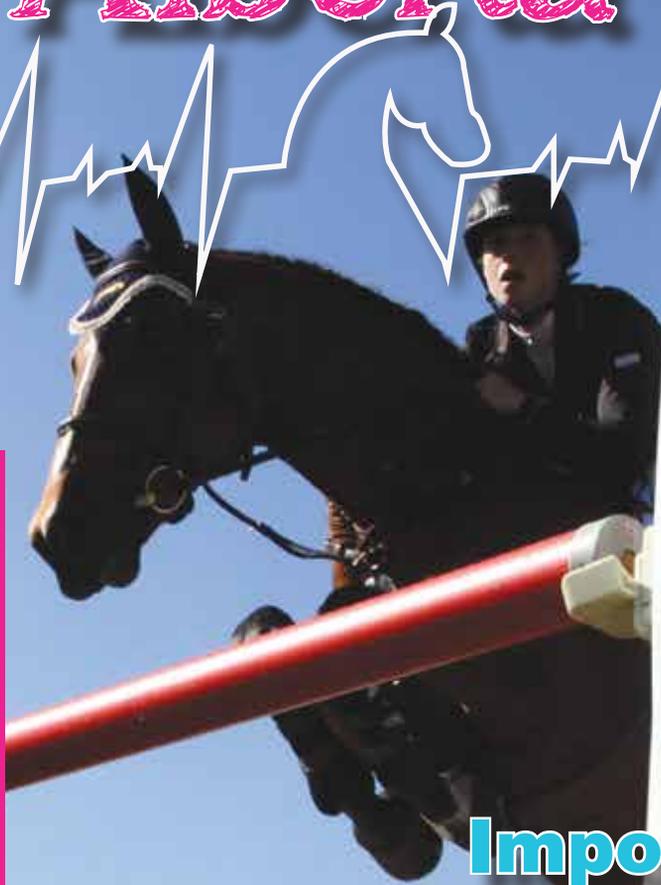


Following The Pulse of Alberta Show Jumping

Alberta Show Jumpers

On the Cover:
Jacqueline Colborne
at SM 'Masters'
Cansport Photo



Importing Your New Horse
Kim Hoover

Christmas Shopping Guide

Pages 16-17

Horse Shopping Etiquette 101
Kaitlyn McAleese

Buying Horses with Frank Selinger



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Nov/Dec 2015 Congratulations Issue



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Chelsea Walsh



Thank you for picking up our final print edition for the 2015 season!

We want to congratulate all the riders, horses, trainers, grooms, parents and all the people who

have contributed to the successes and achievements of this year. We are thrilled to have this edition be our first 'Congratulations issue' with many barns expressing their gratitude for the sport and business success of 2015.

We hope the positive trend continues into 2016 for you, and that you continue to enjoy ABSJ as we introduce some exciting new things in the new year including digital magazine editions in the non-print edition months! We are also so excited to unveil the ABSJ Medal program in 2016 to be hosted at your favorite venues.

Best wishes to you! info@albertashowjumpers.com
www.albertashowjumpers.com

Holly Grayton
Editor-in-Chief

Contributing Writers

Kaitlyn McAleese | Alexander Grayton | Holly Grayton | Tina Watkins | Kim Hoover | Janice Cook | Sandra Sokoloski | Lorrie Jamieson | Chelsea Walsh | Roger Lewis | Editor - Alexander Grayton

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Note From The Editor:

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Show Schedule

October 2015

October 3 Teesdale Novice Riders Show
October 3-4 Tailwind Show
October 15-18 Oktoberfest I SM
October 22-25 Oktoberfest II SM
October 22-31 RMSJ Royal West

November 2015

November 7 Teesdale Novice Riders Finals

January 2016

January 16-17 Tailwind Show
January 30-31 Classic SM

Albertans on the FEI Ranking List

Alberta Ranking	Canada Ranking	World Ranking	Rider
1	6	161	Elizabeth Gingras
2	7	273	Vanessa Mannix
3	10	306	Tamie Phillips
4	11	317	Kara Chad
5	12	321	Lisa Carlsen
6	13	321	Ben Asselin
7	15	372	Jaclyn Duff
8	20	511	Brenda Riddell
9	23	542	John Anderson
10	26	660	Jenn Serek
11	30	785	Bretton Chad
12	35	876	Darren Dlin
13	36	955	Justin Prather
14	37	982	Jacqueline Colborne
15	43	1141	Shauna Cook

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- 1st Caledon Cup Phase 1

Tennyson:

- 1st Stonewood Grand Prix
- 3rd Brookstreet Grand Prix
- 1st Angelstone Modified Grand Prix
- 1st Tournament of Champions Mod Grand Prix



Congratulations to Darrin Dlin
and the team at Lothlorien
Farm on a great summer!!

Special thank you's to Lori, Brady, Michelle,
Karine, Kim, Alexia and Ricky!!!



Timberlea FARMS



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Congratulates

Lindsey Ross and Redding Baby
Green Championship

Katelyn Lesway and Caribbean
3'6" Hunter Derby Winner

*Darrin Dlin: 1st Omega Alpha
Modified Grand Prix, 1st Palgrave
Modified Grand Prix, 1st Autumn
Classic Open Welcome, 1st
Caledon Premier Grand Prix,
1st Orangeville Grand Prix,
1st Caledon Cup Phase 1, 1st
Stonewood Grand Prix, 1st
Angelstone Modified Grand Prix,
1st Tournament of Champions
Mod Grand Prix*

Marion Ostmeyer and Roulett
winner of the Bryan Anderson
Memorial Grand Prix

Little Romeo and Grace Neufeld
Pony Jumper Champions

*Jade Fowler 1.15m champion
& 1.20m champion, 6th overall
in CET and winner day 1 of FEI
Children's*

Horse Shopping 101

Kaitlyn McAleese

Shopping for horses can be exciting, fun and stressful all at the same time. As a buyer, your number one concern is finding the right horse, of course, but you often end up worrying whether you've tried enough, tried too many, if you've asked the right questions, if you're paying the right price, and perhaps whether you will be happy with the choice you've made once show season arrives.

As a seller, the situation can be just as nerve wracking. Letting a stranger sit on a horse you have put time and money into is never going to be without risk, and the outcome of a trial can be surprising no matter how well you know your horse. As a groom, I have sat in on countless trials and prepared all different types of horses to be shown to riders and trainers, so I've also seen all kinds of trials go completely awry and end in disaster.

Thankfully, there are a few things I think prospective buyers can do to make the process as pain-free as possible for everyone involved.

Be punctual.

Please do not be early. Please do not be late. I think it's best and most professional when a horse being tried is fully tacked up, clean, and ready to go on the cross-ties when the buyers arrive. That being said, the horse should not have to wait on the cross-ties for an hour because you are late. All these people had to put the rest of their day on hold to prepare the horse and then wait with the horse until you arrive. However, arriving early is just as inconvenient, and frankly rude, because it can make it difficult to show the horse at his best, if he is being pulled out of his stall and hurriedly tacked up.

Listen to the person showing you the horse.

If they tell you to start with no spurs, don't say "But I just want to see what they do with them on." Just don't. Whatever they do is obviously less appealing than what they do without them, or else the person wanting the horse to perform well wouldn't have suggested otherwise. Don't set the horse up to behave badly from the start. That isn't fair to the horse and is wasting everyone's time, including your own. You could end up crossing a good horse off your list for no reason. The same thing applies to asking for a different bridle before the first trial, or asking for the horse to be shown to you cold, straight out of his stall or something. Let the people present the horse to you at his best, and then, only if you are very serious about buying the horse and the specific thing you would like to change is a make or break situation, can you ask to make changes to the program.

Don't waste anyone's time.

This one is vague, but important. A lot of times people coming to look at horses take advantage of the situation in ways that can be extremely disrespectful. The biggest example of this would probably be people who choose to

turn a trial into a lengthy riding lesson. Of course the rider should be making sure they have pushed all the buttons and have given themselves ample opportunity to get a feel for a new horse, but there is a line you just shouldn't cross. Around the point where the trainer tells the rider to drop her stirrups or sets up a very specific and complicated trot pole exercise that has nothing to do with getting to know the horse, is where that line lies. It's also rude to do any more with a horse that has already proven to be unsuitable, or that you've decided you will not buy. People who get on, flat the horse for 15 minutes and say, "thank you, but this just isn't the type I'm looking for right now," are my favorite. They know what they want and as soon as they realize they want to pass on one, they stop taking up everyone's time and taking any more out of the horse than they need to.

Similarly, I can not stand when people do a lengthy trial with lots of jumping, probably getting close to the riding lesson situation we just talked about, and then at the end say he was really great but he's unsuitable for a reason the seller made clear from the start. This goes for the people who come to look at a four year old, and then at the end say, "he's super, just too green." Realistically, how broke were you expecting the four year old to be?

Or maybe even worse, when a seller points out a vice such as cribbing or a hock that needs maintaining, and the people still come to try the horse anyway and then pass because of the vice. Do not try the horse if you don't think it will be suitable before you even sit on it, because chances are the issue will still be an issue no matter how well the horse went.

Finally, a quick note on second trials. Please do not tell me you're coming back for a second trial because my horse is in your top 13! You should only be coming back for a second trial if you are very serious about purchasing a horse, and a 1 in 13 chance of making a sale is just not serious enough. Trying horses in that way probably isn't going to allow you see all the horses clearly and will definitely make it too hard to remember the subtleties of each. In short, trying horses can and should be fun as long as everyone is respecting the time and effort that goes into developing, preparing and presenting a horse to someone and of course, as long as the horse's best interest is also kept top of mind.





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IMPORTING YOUR NEW HORSE!



Photo Credit: Overseas Horse Services

I just bought a horse in Europe. Now that I've done that, what is my next step?

Congratulations! The first step is to contact myself, Kimberly, from Overseas Horse Services. I will get the ball rolling to secure a shared co-load for the air stall [another horse or two also looking for a flight to Western Canada]. Next, I will need the bill of sale or invoice for the horse, and proof of payment to the seller (such as a wire receipt from bank) to begin paperwork for the importation.

How soon should I expect my horse to come home? How often are there flights to Calgary?

Flights are every Monday and Wednesday from Luxembourg to Calgary. Having three horses per pallet is the most cost-efficient way for horses to travel. Of course if you buy three horses, you don't need a co-load - your three horses complete a pallet and can be shipped together right away. If you buy one or two horses you will have to wait for the

other horse(s) of the co-load to enter quarantine. Usually horses don't have to wait more than a week or two to enter quarantine. Flights do slow down from October to March without regular international competitions to help attract horses for co-loads.

What expenses are involved and which of them can fluctuate?

Overseas Horse Services, partnering with an agent in Europe, can organize door-to-door transport. This covers pick-up road transport from the sellers, 7-10 days of quarantine and health testing, health papers, export documents, flight, professional groom care, CFIA quarantine inspection, permits, import fees, brokerage, customs clearance, quarantine and health testing on the arrival side, CEM courier and road transport. For a very general estimation, a gelding's import costs could range from \$10,000-14,000, a mare could range from \$12,000-\$16,000, and a stallion could range from \$14,000-\$20,000. Quarantine and health testing requirements are different for mares and stallions which contributes to the different import costs. The expenses that can fluctuate quote to quote include the aforementioned quarantine differences due to the sex of your horse, CEM testing requirements, the cost of Canadian GST paid to customs (based on 5% of the value of your horse), arrival side quarantine (at our facility or your own), and road transport in a sterilized, sole-use trailer by OHS, a commercial shipper or your own trailer. It is always best to ask for an up-to-date accurate quote once you know the sex, location and value of the horse.

Can I claim back the GST I pay Canadian customs?

In order to claim back GST paid on your horse, the buyer of the horse must first be a company with a Registered GST number. You will be able to claim back the GST you paid on items related to the commercial activities of your company; this is completed by claiming input tax credits on line 106 of your GST return (or line 108 electronically). It is best to contact your accountant with any further questions. Individuals and companies without GST numbers will not be able to claim the GST back.

How long will my horse be in quarantine once he has landed on Canadian soil?

The quarantine in Europe is 7 days for a gelding and 10 days for mares and stallions. Once the horses arrive in Canada, quarantine is 7-10 days for geldings, 21 days for mares and 45 days for stallions. The factors that can change the length of quarantine include how busy the CFIA labs are at the time of submission, statutory holidays that can affect work days for CFIA and your veterinarian, and time/temperature sensitivity of the CEM swabs.

Can I quarantine my new horse at my barn or do I need to use a special facility?

Quarantine at your own location is possible, as long as the horse can be in a separate area of the stables away from other horses. There can be absolutely no nose-to-nose contact between horses. Quarantine horse handlers cannot touch the other horses in the barn. Fly spray, disinfectants, gloves, coveralls and sterilization products are recommended

Continued on page 13



Horses & Their Value

Holly Gratton

With the recent drop in oil prices and the Canadian dollar stagnant at an unfortunately low rate, we all need to consider our investments. This includes our homes, stocks, vehicles and now also our horses.

Consider this scenario: you bought shares in an oil company last year when oil prices were a respectable \$75 per barrel, and then oil shot up to its record-setting highs around \$125 per barrel, and you were on top of the world. Now, oil has plummeted back down to somewhere near \$50 per barrel and a conundrum has presented itself. You don't want to sell your shares in this oil company while you stand to lose all your capital invested, but you also want to get out of your situation in a timely manner.

Think of your horse investment along the same lines, following the ebb and flow of the market. The unfortunate truth in Alberta is the horse sale market here tends to follow oil prices to some degree. If the oil price is down, consumers tend to become hesitant about buying houses, cars, and horses! One thing to keep in mind is that our horses eat everyday... we can't put them aside and wait for our other income to pick up again.

My point? Buy low and sell high as much as possible! This means that in our current situation we might not have the buyers that we did last fall, so sellers may need to hold onto their investments for a while for things to pick up, or be forced to sell lower than they wished.

Another aspect to the horse industry that can affect a horse's value is the 'use' of the horse. Everyone wants to buy something great that will help him or her accomplish their goals or teach them skills, and then sell the horse when the time comes to move on. Sometimes it's time to move on when the rider's goals exceed the horse's abilities, or when the horse is older and needs an easier job as it ages, or if the partnership has simply reached the end of its useful time.

So you could purchase an experienced 1.30m amateur-friendly horse for your child, and your child currently rides somewhat competitively in the 1.0-1.10m classes. As your child learns and moves up through the levels, until they reach the 1.30m classes again the asset itself is effectively

devalued. What you had bought as an experienced 1.30m horse is now an older horse that has been ridden at a lower level since that time. How can this asset still be 'valued' the same as when it was purchased? How then do you add value or, at least maintain value?

Many trainers prefer the method of buying an over-qualified horse to teach a developing rider a new set of skills or to learn to be competitive at a new level. It is the most likely way for the rider to improve. This situation carries the highest odds for success if either the horse or the rider has experience and history to draw upon.

The learning or developing rider will not add or maintain value in the horse as an asset. Continuing with the investment or asset analogy, first recognize that when the rider is learning, the horse is not truly an asset to be resold for value. The horse is the investment in you (or your child's) riding career – the payoff for this may not be monetary, but in many other terrific and fulfilling ways.

If your financial situation dictates that you simply can't keep investing over and over again in developing your rider's abilities, think of how to at least maintain value in your horse so that you can reasonably re-sell and move on to purchase the next horse with minimal re-upping. Having a more experienced rider ride your horse on a regular basis can help keep up on the horse's level of training and experience. This is a major reason why most trainers will prefer to ride client's horses on a somewhat regular basis.

Suppose you buy a nice young horse with good potential but needs training, and your rider doesn't ride at a level to keep up with the 'young horse' (age) classes or jump a big enough height by the age restrictions. The nice young horse you bought will lose value relative to its peers if it isn't developed at the same rate – even if the horse is a perfect match for your rider's learning and goals. The horse, at the time of purchase, was 'valued' for its potential and skill-level for its age. Having your trainer or a more experienced rider continue the horse's show record and experience alongside your rider's learning will help maintain or increase the value.

Although I struggle with my own ego daily, especially having someone else ride my horse, we who have these 'investments' do have to think about the future, long-term value, next step, and so on. In the long run, it really doesn't take much away from you or your child to have your trainer take your horse to a few shows or in a few classes to help keep the value.

Another important consideration in evaluating the 'value' of a horse is the scenario in which a horse is imported from Europe to North America. For example, you purchase a

Continued on page 13



CONGRATULATIONS to Jacqueline Colborne, Jumper Trainer at Ironhill Equestrian in Priddis, Alberta, on a successful 2015 show season.

Jacqueline had her first international win aboard Zydalگو M, an 11yr old KWPN Stallion, produced and owned by her partner James Chawke. The pair won the \$35,000 ACTC Welcome CSI2* and took second place in the \$35,000 GGT Footing Classic CSI2* at the RMSJ summer series.

continued from page 12

horse from Europe for \$30,000 Canadian Dollars, and have to pay roughly \$10,000 Canadian Dollars to ship the horse to you in Canada. Does this make the horse 'valued' at \$40,000? For the person who imports the horse, of course it would be nice to have the shipping cost wrapped into the 'value' of the horse, but that is misleading. In an analogous situation, if I chose to buy a Volkswagen directly from Germany, does that make it worth more than a Volkswagen purchased in North America just because I need to ship the car? No, the car is still the same car, just on a different side of the ocean.

However, because there are so many more horses in Europe, and one of the major driving forces of the horse industry in Europe is selling and exporting horses, it is possible to get a very good deal buying a horse. Good value for less money. If everything goes right with the horse you have imported, you may be able to recoup shipping costs if the market in North America is strong, simply because you "bought low" in order to "sell high".

Ultimately, we must not forget that this analogy of horses as investments or assets is a departure from the real concept of horsemanship. They are amazing athletes, with dynamic personalities and huge hearts (that's why we started, right?). They are our partners, first and foremost, and sometimes partners move on to head in new directions that may be more suitable for them, but they always deserve our best intentions. So I guess the bottom line is be smart about protecting the investment and quality of your horse, and enjoy him as best you can the rest of the time.

Happy Riding!

Continued from page 11 'Importing your new horse'

to control the spread of any potential disease. Horses in quarantine can be worked or exercised, but can only be in the arena when there are no other horses present. OHS can arrange a CFIA inspector to visit your stable to determine whether you can quarantine at your own facility.

Who accompanies my horse on the airplane, and what is their experience level?

Professional grooms travel with the horses on the airplane. These grooms are certified flight grooms who have years of experience with horse flights and come from a lifetime of riding, competing, trailering, grooming and owning horses. From my own experience flying horses, they give you a lot of signs before they even leave the ground if they will behave or if they will be difficult to manage. Once the horses are in the air, travel is usually quite smooth! Flying your horse is, of course, a risk for the horse owner, but accidents and injuries during flights from Europe to Calgary are VERY infrequent. The new air stalls we use in flight also aid in keeping horses safe.

The new animal terminal at the Calgary International Airport has stables for use right at the airport! Horses that land in the middle of the night can now rest until 9am in our new stalls, at which point they will get cleared by CFIA and Canada Customs. Hay, water, electrolytes and, if requested, bran and grain will be provided.

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Logo: A horse silhouette inside a blue square.

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The perfect fit: How to pick the right shape for you.

Sandra Sokoloski BScPT, FCAMPT, CGIMS

So you are in the market for a new horse. Looking for that equine partner that will help you reach your goals and aspirations and be the horse you have always wanted. Stop and think beyond the pedigree, scope and temperament of the horse and look in the mirror. Consider the shape and mobility of your own body. If you have short legs, narrow pelvis or stiff hips, wide barreled horses can make riding a challenging and often uncomfortable experience. Even a shorter horse that is wide behind the shoulders can be difficult to sit on comfortably. If you have any degree of hip pain or degeneration a 'slab-sided' horse is absolutely essential. Having any back or pelvis issues will mean that you need to find the horse that moves with more fluidity and less bounce in its step. As spines age they

naturally stiffen and no matter how hard you try or how well you ride, your spine mobility will never match that of a 'springy' horse.

Another factor to consider is the proportion of your lower body vs. upper body. If you have a bigger build in your upper body or have a long back, your balance on the horse is going to be more easily upset. Finding a horse that moves more uphill or has a higher set neck will save you from having as many of those 'precarious' moments. If you have a 'curvier' spine or have upper back or shoulder issues, try to find a horse that is capable of being 'light in the mouth' and has a lighter front end. Holding the reins of a 'heavy horse' or one that has a heavier neck and shoulder, will cause more tension in your own body or will tend to make you look 'slouchy' even when you aren't.

As a physiotherapist I encounter many people who are struggling to be comfortable when they ride or to have better equitation. It is clear that the shape of their horse, no matter how wonderful it is in every other way, is not ideal. If you are aware of how to match your body to that of an equine partner, many of these difficulties can be minimized. Look in the mirror, talk with your coach, consult with a knowledgeable body practitioner and have a great time shopping!



With a successful season behind us, I would like to congratulate each and every one of our riders on a great year! Every horse and rider stepped up and accomplished new goals and finished strong! A huge thank you to our clientele for such an enjoyable year and for forming such a strong team. Everyone at Stal VDW works hard, including the staff I am grateful for, who keep our equine athletes in top care. I look forward to next year with each and every one of you!



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What to expect when buying a horse

Holly Gratton

Buying a horse is no simple task. A horse is a living and breathing thing that needs constant care, you probably want to buy a horse to do a particular job, so you want to make sure it's the right choice for you. There really is a lot to consider, which is why you need to surround yourself with people whose opinion you trust.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind when you are purchasing your new horse that will help keep everybody happy throughout the process of the deal.

Set a budget. Decide an amount of money that you are comfortable spending on a horse, and abide by it. I was once told, it's important to only buy horses with your 'for fun' money, not your 'bread and butter' money. Buying horses comes with inherent risks, and should something happen to this horse you must still be able to continue living life the way you normally would.

When you are buying a horse remember to include in your budget any sales or import taxes, quarantine, pre-purchase veterinary exam (vetting or vet-check), commission and shipping (air or ground). Always confirm with your trainer or agent at the beginning of the process the commission that is expected if they haven't already clarified this.

Talk with your trainer about what your goals are with this new horse. Many people skip this step and leave it to the trainer to find them their dream horse without having discussed what that might really be for them. Sometimes a rider may have particular goals that are above and beyond their immediate budget, which means plans need to be made with your trainer about how to get where they want to be. You may have \$40,000 to spend – a considerable sum of money indeed – and want to jump in the Grand Prix classes. It will be difficult to find a top level perfect Grand Prix horse with many years left competing at that level for this budget, but it doesn't mean you can't get into these classes. In this case, to get that Grand Prix horse, you may buy, develop, and sell a couple horses along the way hoping to make a profit from each one to be able to reach your goal of buying your perfect Grand Prix horse.

Or, you may use your \$40,000 in another way, opting for something quite a bit older with lots of experience to get in the classes right away (even a year-long lease), or maybe a nice young horse to develop over the years to accomplish your goals. It's important to be clear about what you want to do, and to discuss these goals with your trainer before your trainer sets out on the search.

So once you or your trainer has found a horse to try, remember to refer back to your list of criteria. Only try horses that fit the criteria – don't try the 4 year old giant horse when you wanted a horse of suitable size and with 1.20m experience! Keep your eye on the prize.

Only try horses within your budget. It isn't fair to anyone to try a horse priced at \$60,000, thinking you can talk someone down to \$40,000. You will only be disappointed in the end, having wasted a lot of people's time and deviating from your criteria. Remember to consider the situation from both sides. If you were selling your horse priced at \$60,000, would you accept an offer of \$40,000? You may even be offended!

When trying a horse, if you aren't comfortable on the horse don't waste the jumps or the horse thinking you will get in the groove. If you know immediately the horse isn't for you, it will be better for everyone to politely indicate that, and hop off.

Once you have it narrowed down to 2 or maybe 3 horses in your mind that might be right for you, have your trainer schedule a second trial. The purpose of the second trial is to differentiate between the horses you are really interested in. For a couple of reasons, avoid trying a horse 3, 4 or 5 times. It asks a lot of the seller to keep the horse from other potential buyers for such a period of time. It's taxing on the horse to be tried by someone so many times in what is likely a compressed schedule. Finally, if you don't love the horse after two rides, it's likely not for you.

The next step is to arrange for a veterinarian of your choice. It is standard for a horse to be evaluated in terms of risk – low, moderate, or high risk – as opposed to a strict pass/fail. Every buyer will have a different comfort level for assuming risk, and it is dependent on the unique situation. No horse will be the perfect physical specimen, each one will have at least minor deficiencies.

Have a bill of sale drawn up. You can find many on the internet, and your trainer or agent should have one that they regularly use. Be sure the bill of sale is clear about any conditions or qualifications of the sale. If you wish to wait for blood test results it is possible to add a clause to the bill of sale reflecting the necessary negative blood test result in order to arrange for a faster possession of the horse.

Once you have arranged for payment according to the terms in the bill of sale, and the seller has received the money, then the arrangements should be made to deliver the horse to you along with a signed copy of the bill of sale and any other paperwork (passport, breed registration papers, etc). If you plan to insure the horse do so as soon as you legally own it. This paperwork can be done at the time of the pre-purchase exam.

Finally, after the successful delivery of your horse, your trainer or agent will request the commission for their role in finding the horse, arranging trials and veterinary appointments, advising and offering their expert opinion. After a fairly involved, but hopefully fun process, you are now the proud owner of a beautiful new horse!



Lookout (6 yr old Le Primeur x Polydor)



Plume de la Roque



Deen (7 yr old Phin Phin x Tangelo vd Zuuthoeve)

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Attache had a great 2015 show season!

Congratulations to our entire team at Attache Stables for another successful year.

With such a strong group of horses, we are really looking forward to what 2016 has in store.

Many congratulations to Delfina Abbiati on all of her success. And thank you to everyone for their support!



Livestream (5 yr old Lordanos x Landadel)



Clockwise (6 yr old Contendro I x Cantus)



La Capriati

Buying horses with Frank Selinger

Frank Selinger is a Calgary-based coach and trainer, with several decades of experience training horses and riders to elite levels. From his family's history breeding horses for sport to finding some of North America's best show jumping horses, Frank is well-respected for his intuition and skills selecting horses for riders. ABSJ caught up with Frank and found out a bit about his process finding horses.

What do you look for when you are finding a horse for a junior rider?

Suitability is key, and it's preferable to find a horse that is slightly over qualified so that it can take the joke during the learning curve.

What do you look for in a top grand prix prospect?

Conformation, canter stride, and impulsion. Self-impulsion, really. I don't like lazy horses, they are not motivated. I look for a horse with great grassroots basics – you want to start with all the ducks in a row by nature, otherwise you are trying to train the exception to the rule. I like tall horses with a little bit of blood.

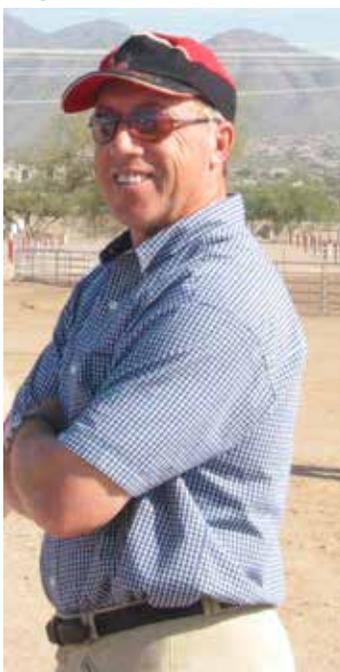
What are you looking for in a young prospect?

Mostly the same as in the Grand Prix horse. I hope every one of them is going to be a Grand Prix horse! But specifically for the young horses, I'm looking for character – a horse that wants to work with you, because all the talent in the world is no good to you if it's a contrary animal.

It can be tough sometimes when trying horses to get a complete picture of the horse in such a short timeframe and controlled setting.

What are things that you think you can really find out when you are trying a horse?

You're hoping that the horse hasn't been overly prepared for your tryout, that's the first thing! You are looking for a horse that will work with you and doesn't require you to change your entire ride for it. And if you like the horse well enough on the first trial, it is only going to get better as you mesh with the animal. Mostly you hope to just find a horse that

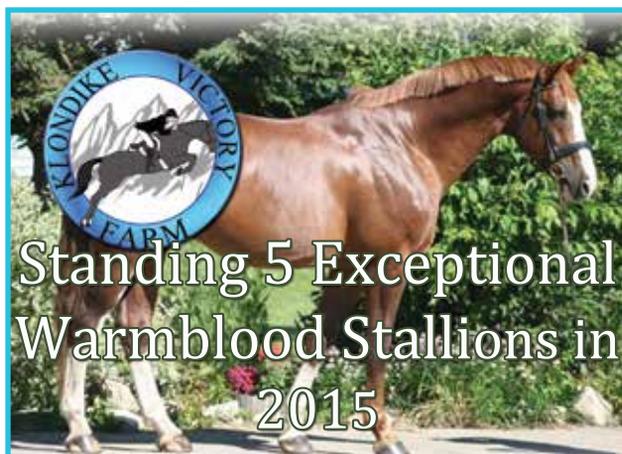


will work with you and doesn't remind you of any bad horses you have had before.

Many people look for horses in Europe. Do you have any advice for people shopping in Europe nowadays?

Take someone you trust with you, and someone that has to live with the decisions made on the trip. It's hard enough to buy a horse from your neighbour; it's ever harder in Europe. **What are your thoughts about shopping in Europe versus shopping locally?**

It makes sense to shop locally first. For starters, if the horse is misrepresented you have some leverage to make things right, which you don't always have in Europe. It just makes sense to look here first. There are enough people here breeding and training horses that you should scour through those ones first, and then go to Europe – again, with somebody you trust – if you haven't found anything.



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Body Worker Assessment: New Horse

By Tina Watkins

Buying a new horse is an exciting new venture, and a big part of that process is determining the health and soundness of the horse to ensure that it can perform the role you hope for. Your veterinarian will conduct a pre-purchase exam to advise you about the horse's soundness and well-being, which will assist in your decision-making process.

From a body worker's perspective, an important consideration when choosing a new horse is the horse's posture. The horse's posture affects the way it stands and moves, which affects the loading of not only the legs, but also the spine and every joint in the body. The long-term soundness of your horse can be maximized with a balanced and symmetrical posture, and shortened with an imbalanced or one-sided

posture that continually loads one leg over another.

One of the most common scenarios is when one hind leg and the opposite foreleg are utilized more than the other diagonal pair. In this scenario we see the torque created by this off-loading running through the horses back and spine.

Imagine in your own body something simple like bringing your one ear closer to your shoulder. If you stand and feel how this small change affects your body from the inside, you will feel what the rest of your body has to do to compensate for this shift in posture. Now imagine running a race with your neck to the side and how your body would feel after that! You might not be lame, but you would be sore.

Now imagine your horse balancing a rider and doing all the work we are asking of him all while working with a postural asymmetry.

In my daily practice I would say that all horses have an asymmetry to some degree, but with the rider and trainer aware of the situation and with a diligent program we can work toward balance that will strengthen the body to maintain long-term soundness.



Congratulations to all the partnerships, on so many top placings at many international and national competitions. Thank you to the hard work of the riders, the brilliance of the horses, and the incredible support of the families.

Looking forward to a great 2016!!!



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF:

KVF TACORDE 15 YR OLD STALLION



What is a normal day like for Tacorde?

Turn out by 8:00am, and he likes to come back in at about 2:30pm in the winter and 3:30pm in the summer – what Tacorde wants Tacorde gets! He is ridden when he comes in for the afternoon.

What does he and doesn't he like?

He likes morning naps and loves grabbing a mouthful of grain on his way in to be ridden. He hates flatwork, especially as he gets older, unless he is outdoors when he can tolerate it. He loves attention and making as much noise as possible!

How would you describe your horse's personality?

Confident and playful.

What personality traits does your horse have that sets him apart as a competitor?

He loves a crowd and is proud when he jumps a good round – he'll always cross the finish line bucking.

What does your horse eat? How often?

He eats as much as possible and is always on a diet. He is on a timothy/alfalfa hay mix during the day, and in the summer he is in a grass pen. At night he gets alfalfa cubes and a concentrate that is specially made for us.

What is your exercise regime to keep your horse fit?

He is ridden 5 days per week and goes on the treadmill twice per week during the winter. In the summer is ridden out more. He doesn't jump at all during the off-season and only does one or two jump schools before the first show of the season. He gets jumping fit by competing in some smaller shows where he can jump some smaller Grand Prix.

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Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2015 Tailwind Equestrian Series Finale Awards!

Hope to see everyone at our next series.

Pc: Kaley Scott Photography



Coming up next:

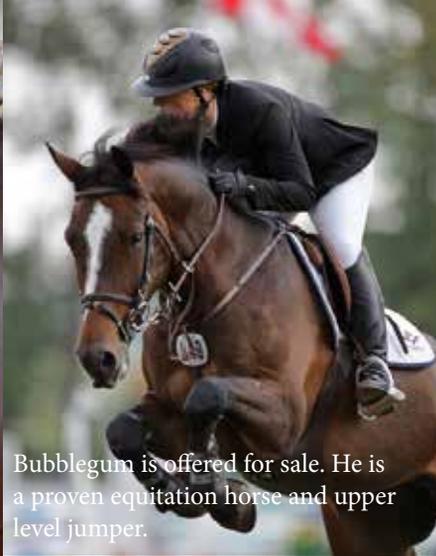
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Job Focus: Equine Chiropractor

Roger Lewis



How many weeks a year do you work?

I work approximately 50 weeks each year, but because of the amount of travel I need to do to see the horses it isn't very often that I work more than 4 days each week.

What is the financial reality of this job?

If you are willing to put in the time and do the work you can earn a good living.

Expenses are reasonable other than fuel and wear and tear on your vehicle. I put over 100,000 km on my truck every year!

What is the best route to becoming an equine chiropractor?

I recommend to anyone who wishes to be a horse chiropractor, stay in school and become a vet or a human chiropractor first. Then really think about how much physical labor is acceptable to you once you are educated. It is possibly more physical than someone could expect!

What characteristics does a person need to excel in this field?

People skills are a must. Building relationships with clients and other professionals is key. I have always said that what we do works best when it can be part of a team effort. Communicating well with owners, riders, farriers, and veterinarians about certain horses is very beneficial.

What are the positives and negatives?

The negative side of this job is all the travel that's necessary, and with all of the heavy lifting and pulling it is hard on my body.

The positive part is the blessing to be able to work with horses and their owners every day. I truly love the horses.

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HITS Sunshine Series II (Thermal, Ca)	Nov 4 - 8, 2015
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2014 CET Finals with Chelsea Walsh



Photo Credit: CanSport Photo

With the 2015 CET Medal Finals just around the corner at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, we caught up with the 2014 runner up Chelsea Walsh to hear about her experience contesting the finals. ABSJ will follow Alberta's riders as the finals return to Toronto this year after taking place in Calgary last fall. Wishing all the competitors the best of luck!

Tell us a little bit about the format of how you qualified for the CET Finals.

Well I competed all year in the CET qualifiers at RMSJ but what got me to Nationals was the Regional Finals at Rocky Mountain Classic 3. After the top six horse switch, the top four riders are chosen to represent the Prairie Region at the nationals, which were hosted by Royal West this year.

Tell us about your horse:

The horse I rode in CET is actually (my sister) Ainsley's mare, Parkmore B. She is a 14 year old Irish Sport Horse and she knows her way around the equitation ring. I was very grateful to have an experienced and brave horse like Parker and I felt like she took on all the challenges with ease. This

was my best season with her in the eq ring and the hunter derbies in the three years I've ridden her.

Have you done the CET finals before?

I went last year to The Royal. I was 3rd at regionals and leased a horse when I got there.

What is the format for the CET final and how did that suit your particular horse?

The two phases of the Medal Finals are the Gymnastic Phase and the Jumping Phase. Parker is the type of horse that can be anything you make her. I've taken her in every ring and she doesn't really have many weak points. I think the Gymnastic/Flat coming before the Jumping phase was an advantage for me because I put her together and was smooth on the first day so I got away with the slice to the last jump in the jumping phase (we were asked to display a jump-off turn).

Who is your coach?

I train with Erin Taylor out of Ironstone Farms.

What practice specifically for the CET did you do leading into the finals?

Parker is an experienced horse, so I wasn't worried about counter canter, jumping single boxes or anything like that. Leading up to the finals I worked on keeping her light off the aids on the flat and my own position.

What are your major goals with in the sport?

I would love to go to Young Riders and jump some Grand Prix courses. I am sixteen now and both my horses are really great jumpers. But if in the next couple years they only developed better flatwork and stayed sound and healthy, I'd be happy. I love my horses and I will be happy wherever the sport takes me.

After your win the first day did that add pressure or help you feel more relaxed going into the second day?

Going into Nationals I already felt the pressure. I was the winner of our region so I felt like I was expected to perform well. That being said, I was well-mounted and I knew I had done some scarier things than ride a 1.15m course. I just tried to be focused and take advantage of my experience in the bigger jumper classes.

What phase would you say your strength was in?

The reason I was successful in the Gymnastic Phase was because I rode it without nerves. I think a lot of the riders made mistakes because they were nervous about being good. Right from the start, I tried to ride forward and show the judge I have a good feel of my horse. The test wasn't anything I don't practice on all my horses, so the key was not to think about equitating, but just to ride!

How do you think the CET has helped your progress to reaching these goals?

The CET Medal has developed me into a confident and thoughtful rider. I am grateful for the skills I've gained from CET and the friends I've made. I think all young riders can benefit from this type of competition and I wish it was as big in Canada as it is in the States.



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Photo Credit Elizabeth Gingras

Your saddle should be placed on the horse without any pads and girthed up. At this point you and your saddle fitter should note that the billets are hanging vertically and in the correct place to do up the girth – this doesn't mean under the elbow or in the middle of the belly. This is often the simplest way to fail a saddle fit, as it is the tree that doesn't fit; changing panels or adding or taking out wool will not make a difference as to where the billets hang.



New Horse, New Saddle

Janis Cook

Purchasing a horse often means you need to include the cost of a saddle in the overall spending. Hoping that your saddle from the previous horse will fit and asking everyone around you what they think won't lead to the most informed decision. If you are thinking about purchasing the previous rider's saddle, don't assume it's your best option without having the fit evaluated for yourself and the horse.

Here are your options:

1. Ask a qualified saddle fitter to come out and assess your saddle.
2. Pad your previous saddle and hope for the best, until your horse tells you differently (painful process for the horse to go through).



When a qualified saddle fitter comes to assess the fit, you can expect a few things.

The horse needs to be measured for width and topline features. These measurements should be discussed and compared to the width of your saddle and the

style of topline your saddle would best suit.

Once girthed up, if the cantle is much higher than the front of the saddle and the pommel sits low and tight on the withers, the tree is too wide. Trying to stuff the front to compensate is not the best solution. If the tree isn't adjustable for width, then the saddle fails to fit the horse. At this point your saddle fitter may evaluate the Body Conditioning Score of the horse and suggest a program to further assess the horse after either gaining weight or losing it.

If the pommel sits higher than the cantle then it is likely a tree design failure for your horse. Trying to lift the back of the saddle with risers or thicker panels is not the solution. A saddle with a different tree design will solve the fit.



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Grayton Farms

Grayton Farms would like to congratulate all of our clients, students, and new horse owners on a successful 2015.

Contact us to plan your 2016 show season and training, and think of us when looking for your next competitive partner!



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